

DEC 20 2001

Susan B. Boyle
Assistant Commissioner for Site Remediation
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 028
401 East State Street, 6th floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0028

Dear Ms. Boyle:

The purpose of this letter is to formalize discussions we have had beginning with a meeting on August 22, 2000, regarding Berry's Creek in Bergen County, New Jersey. I am writing to inform you of EPA's intent to initiate a Remedial Investigation addressing contamination in Berry's Creek, and associated waterbodies and wetlands.

Two National Priorities List (NPL) sites are known to have released contamination into Berry's Creek: The Ventron/Velsicol site in Wood-Ridge and Carlstadt, and the Universal Oil Products (UOP) site in East Rutherford. Both of these sites border directly on Berry's Creek. A third NPL site, the SCP site in Carlstadt, borders on Peach Island Creek, a tributary to Berry's Creek. SCP has impacted Peach Island Creek. In addition, a number of other State-lead sites are potential contributors to the contamination in Berry's Creek. Because of the myriad contamination problems and many potential sources, until this time the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) have elected to address the upland contamination sources to Berry's Creek; many of these upland sources have been addressed, though several still remain.

Because the Berry's Creek investigation will take several years to complete, we have jointly determined that it is appropriate to begin the investigation at this time. As we discussed, EPA will take the lead in remedial activities for the Creek and associated waterbodies and wetlands, while NJDEP will remain the lead agency in remedial activities associated with the existing operable units of the Ventron/Velsicol and UOP sites. SCP will remain a federal-lead site.

437818



EPA is in the planning stages of the Remedial Investigation, including developing an enforcement strategy. We will keep you and your staff informed of our activities, and will work with you to ensure appropriate coordination among investigations for the Creek, the Ventron/Velsicol and UOP sites, and other hazardous waste sites in the Berry's Creek watershed.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mr. Seth Ausubel, Remedial Project Manager in the Central New Jersey Remediation Section, at (212) 637-4976.

Sincerely yours,

15

Richard L. Caspe, P.E.

Director

Emergency and Remedial Response Division

cc: Gwen Zervas, NJDEP